This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): For use in a router having a designated routing facility and a standby routing facility, a method for processing information related to routing, the method comprising:

a) executing, with the designated routing facility, a routing protocol to generate network topology information;

b) providing a copy of network state information received by the designated routing facility to the standby routing facility, wherein the act of providing a copy of network state information is performed regardless of a state of the network topology information generated by the designated routing facility; and

c) executing, with the standby routing facility, a routing protocol based on the network information provided by the designated routing facility, but such that signaling from the standby routing facility to external nodes is suppressed.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the routing protocol is the IS-IS protocol.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the routing protocol is a link state routing protocol.

Claim 4 (previously presented): For use in a router having a designated routing facility and a standby routing

PAGE 9/34 * RCVD AT 10/2/2006 6:27:47 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/9 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:17325429071 * DURATION (mm-ss):15-00

facility, a method for processing information related to routing, the method comprising:

a) executing, with the designated routing facility, a routing protocol to generate network topology information;

b) providing a copy of network topology information generated by, and/or network state information received by, the designated routing facility to the standby routing facility; and

c) executing, with the standby routing facility, a routing protocol based on the network information provided by the designated routing facility, but such that signaling from the standby routing facility to external nodes is suppressed

wherein the act or providing a copy of network topology information is effected by having the designated routing facility flood such information onto a local area network within the router.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising:

d) if a failure of the designated routing facility is determined, then electing the standby routing facility as the designated routing facility.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 wherein the act of electing includes having the standby routing facility assume identification information of the failed designated routing facility.

PAGE 10/34 * RCVD AT 10/2/2006 6:27:47 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/9 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:17325429071 * DURATION (mm-ss):15-00

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the designated routing facility and the standby routing facility share a common forwarding facility.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A router comprising:

a) a designated routing facility adapted for executing a routing protocol to generate network topology information; and

b) a standby routing facility, the standby routing facility adapted for

i) accepting a copy of network state information received by the designated routing facility; and

ii) executing a routing protocol based on the network information provided by the designated routing facility to generate network topology information, but such that signaling from the standby routing facility to external nodes is suppressed.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (original): A machine-readable medium having machine readable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, effect the method of claim 1.

Claim 11 (currently amended): For use in a router having, at a given time, a currently designated routing facility and a current standby routing facility, a method comprising:

a) informing an external node that the router has redundant routing facilities;

PAGE 11/34 * RCVD AT 10/2/2006 6:27:47 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/9 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:17325429071 * DURATION (mm-ss):15-00

b) informing an external node of the identify of the currently designated routing facility;

c) providing, with the currently designated routing facility when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information to the external node; and

d) providing, with the current standby routing facility when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility, network information to the external node.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 wherein the currently designated routing facility and current standby routing facility share a common forwarding facility.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 wherein the act of informing an external node that the router has redundant routing facilities includes generating and transmitting a message including an identification of the router, address information of the currently designated routing facility, and address information of the current standby routing facility.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 11 wherein the act of informing an external node that the router has redundant routing facilities uses an existing BGP message format.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 11 further comprising:

PAGE 12/34 * RCVD AT 10/2/2006 6:27:47 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/9 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:17325429071 * DURATION (mm-ss):15-00

e) if a failure of the currently designated routing facility is determined, then

i) electing the current standby routing facility as a new designated routing facility, and

ii) informing the external node of the identify of the newly elected new designated routing facility.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A router comprising:

a) a currently designated routing facility;

b) a current standby routing facility; and

c) a signaling facility adapted for

i) informing an external node that the router has redundant routing facilities, and

ii) informing the external node of the identify of the currently designated routing facility,

wherein the currently designated routing facility is adapted to provide, when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information to the external node, and

wherein the current standby routing facility is adapted to provide, when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility, network information to the external node.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The router of claim 16 wherein the currently designated routing facility has a first internet address and the current standby routing facility has a second internet address.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A network having at least two routers, each of the at least two routers comprising:

a) a currently designated routing facility;
b) a current standby routing facility; and
c) a signaling facility adapted for
i) informing an external node that the router has redundant routing facilities, and
ii) informing the external node of the identify of the currently designated routing facility,
wherein the currently designated routing facility is adapted to provide, when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information to the external node, and
wherein the current standby routing facility is adapted to provide, when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility, network information to the external node.

Claim 19 (original): A machine-readable medium having machine readable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, effect the method of claim 11.

Claim 20 (currently amended): For use in a router adapted to interact with an external router having, at a given time, a currently designated routing facility and a current standby routing facility, a method comprising:
a) accepting, from the external router, the identify of the currently designated routing facility;
b) accepting, from the currently designated routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information;

PAGE 14/34 * RCVD AT 10/2/2006 6:27:47 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/9 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:17325429071 * DURATION (mm-ss):15-00

c) using the network information accepted from the currently designated routing facility of the external router for determining routes; and

d) accepting, from the current standby routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility, network information, but not using it for determining routes.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 20 further comprising:

e) storing the network information accepted from the current standby routing facility of the external router.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 20 further comprising:

e) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed;

f) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as a new designated routing facility; and

g) using path information from the newly elected new designated routing facility.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 21 further comprising:

f) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed;

PAGE 15/34 * RCVD AT 10/2/2006 6:27:47 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/9 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:17325429071 * DURATION (mm-ss):15-00

g) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as a new designated routing facility; and

h) using the stored path information from the formerly current standby routing facility that is now the newly elected new designated routing facility.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A router adapted to interact with an external router having, at a given time a currently designated routing facility and a current standby routing facility, the router comprising:

a) an input for

i) accepting, from the external router, the identify of the currently designated routing facility, and

ii) accepting, from the currently designated routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the designated routing facility, network information; and

b) a routing facility for

i) using the network information accepted from the currently designated routing facility of the external router for determining routes, and

ii) accepting, from the current standby routing facility of the external router when it is in a state of being the standby routing facility, network information, but not using it for determining routes.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The router of claim 24 further comprising:

PAGE 16/34 * RCVD AT 10/2/2006 6:27:47 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/9 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:17325429071 * DURATION (mm-ss):15-00

c) a storage device for storing the network information accepted from the current standby routing facility of the external router.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The router of claim 24 wherein the input is further adapted for

iii) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed, and

iv) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as a new designated routing facility, and

wherein the routing facility is further adapted to use path information from the newly elected new designated routing facility when the input accepts the indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as the new designated routing facility.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The method of claim 25 wherein the input is further adapted for

iii) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the currently designated routing facility has failed, and

iv) accepting, from the external router, an indication that the formerly current standby routing facility has been elected as ~~the~~ a new designated routing facility, and

wherein the routing facility is further adapted to use the stored path information from the formerly current standby routing facility if it is newly elected as the new designated routing facility.

PAGE 17/34 * RCVD AT 10/2/2006 6:27:47 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/9 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:17325429071 * DURATION (mm-ss):15-00

Claim 28 (original): A machine-readable medium having machine readable instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a machine, effect the method of claim 20.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The router of claim 8 further comprising:

c) means for electing the standby routing facility as a new designated routing facility if a failure of the designated routing facility is determined.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The router of claim 16 further comprising:

d) means for electing the current standby routing facility as a new designated routing facility if a failure of the currently designated routing facility is determined; and

e) means for informing the external node of the identify of the newly elected new designated routing facility.

PAGE 18/34 * RCVD AT 10/2/2006 6:27:47 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-2/9 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:17325429071 * DURATION (mm-ss):15-00